(a) whether the Minister of State in his Ministry had attended the International Conference held in second half of June 1990 under the auspices of UN at Montreal for evolving an international protocol, called the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer of the globe;

(b) if so, what factors were identified by the Conference as contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer;

(c) what steps were undertaken to be taken by the signatories to the protocol including India; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred by Government per annum in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Minister of State for Environment and Forests led the Indian delegation to the second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held at London from 27-29 June, 1990.

(b) Scientific research has conclusively established that chloroflucrocarbons (CFCs) and halons cause depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere. The Montreal Protocol aims at reduction and eventual elimination of these ozone depleting substances. The Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at London was to consider amendments to the Protocol for its effective implementation by a larger number of countries and a quicker reduction and elimination of zone depleting substances.

(c) India is not a signatory to the Montreal Protocol. The signatories to the Montreal Protocol have evolved a time-table to reduce and eventually eliminate major ozone depleting substances by the year 2000.

(d) In case India does join the Protocol, there will be no expenditure to be borne by the Government, though there may be financial implication for the manufacturers and users of ozone depleting substances. The incremental costs for switching over to ozone safe technologies are proposed to be met out of the international fund established under the Montreal Protocol, as decided upon at the London Conference. The expenditure to be incurred for complying with the Protocol will depend on the strategy, timing and the nature of ozone-safe technologies.

Agreement for sharing knowledge to Prevent Depletion of Ozone Layer

130. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was reached in response to India's plea made at the Montreal Conference calling upon developed countries to share their knowledge and technique with developing countries to prevent depletion of the Ozone layer and to provide subsitutes for Chloroflurocarbons (CFC) necessary for airconditioning refrigeration and insultation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction and follow up action in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held at London from 27-29 June, 1990. In the meeting it was decided that the Parties would take every practicable step to ensure availability of ozone-safe technologies under fair and most favourable conditions to the developing countries. The Government is considering India's stand regarding the Montreal Protocol.